

FACT SHEET

AB 385 (Assembly Member Block):

CCC Growth Factor

Purpose

To align the community college growth index with increased levels of student demand during periods of high unemployment.

Summary

The Legislature conducts annual budget hearings to determine the appropriate funding level for student growth in the community colleges.

The Community College Board of Governors requests funding for growth based upon a statutory formula initially contained in SB 361 [(Scott) of 2006]:

- a) Weighted average of the rate of change in the California population of persons between the ages of 19-24 and 25-65;
- b) Add an unemployment bump when unemployment exceeds five percent, but no higher than two percent above the five percent;
- c) Chancellor may add unfunded FTES in basic skills, transfer and CTE.

This formula is simply a way for the Administration and Legislature to begin the discussion on how much to fund growth in the community colleges. It does not determine the ultimate dollar amount for growth. That is determined through the budget process. As such, it makes no sense to place a cap on unemployment.

Solution

This proposal will eliminate the two percent cap on the unemployment bump in the “statutory growth” formula when the State’s unemployment rate exceeds seven percent.

Background

Community college growth is now estimated at 10.2 percent, with some districts growing at an even higher rate. High unemployment is consistently cited as the major reason for this new student demand for community college courses, with rampant fee hikes at the four-year systems as the secondary cause.

With California’s unemployment rate rising to 9.3 percent, there must be sufficient offerings at community colleges to accommodate the need for retraining unemployed workers.

While AB 385 would not require increased funding for student growth, it would change the nature of the budget discussions to emphasize the need for more community college funding during periods of high unemployment.

Sponsor

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